

"We've already seen what happened when the F.C.C. allowed the monopolization of local radio: today three companies own half the stations in America, delivering a homogenized product that neglects local news coverage and dictates music sales." Those words from William Safire, in the New York Times, succinctly state the problem with relaxing the current rules of broadcast ownership.

This will mean that further consolidation in broadcast, print and the internet will leave most Americans without the diversity of media we as a nation require in a democracy.

I feel that the F.C.C. has given up enforcement of the regulation of media conglomerates, as witnessed by the abdication of the "public interest" requirement in issuing licenses. The diversity this nation requires in presenting all individual, idiosyncratic and alternative media is what enables us to protect our democracy from the mediocracy that leaves us without choice.

sincerely,
Dale Hardman